



## Xclusivo Magazine presents their awards for “Outstanding Personalities of 2006”

Jacqueline Suttle, editor and publisher of “Xclusivo” news magazine of Aruba was proud to host a “Garden Party” in the environs of the Fantastic Gardens nursery on Friday evening, January 5. The purpose of the gala annual event was to honor local personalities that have contributed to the island in various ways, socially, economically and artistically.

This year’s event was a delightful affair, done al fresco at the Fantastic Garden’s patio with guests surrounded by a vividly beautiful backdrop of colorful flora. It lent a relaxed festive ambience to the affair as attendees enjoyed fresh rolled sushi from the Ra restaurant in the Aventura Mall.

At last, the long awaited moment arrived, and those chosen to receive beautiful glass sculptures made by internationally noted Aruban artist Maxwell Anderson were announced. The first award, colored the blue of the sea, appropriately went to the band “Tsunami” for their musical accomplishments over the past year.

The red sculpture, for creativity, and emblazoned with the “X” of Xclusivo magazine was awarded to John Freddy Montoya, noted playwright, producer, director, and choreographer. Freddy works with student teachers and the Instituto di Cultura, staging various productions throughout the year. Unfortunately, he is in Brazil at the moment and unable to attend. Accepting for him was the winner of the yellow glass sculpture, Deputy Police Commissioner Trudy Hassell, who Jacqueline Suttle declared one of the women “she most admires on the island.”

Over the past two years, Police Commissioner Hassell instigated and organized the “Let’s Talk” and “Let’s Talk Kid’s” programs for island youth. These programs are aimed at prevention of many societal problems manifest among youth around the world, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, and violence. She has organized seminars and counseling camps that provide information and an opportunity for youth to discuss their concerns and problems, and a school program starting with the very young aimed at early prevention. During her acceptance speech, Commissioner Hassel offered thanks to John Freddy Montoya for his enthusiastic participation in her many youth programs.

The brown Xclusivo sculpture was awarded to Cadochi Kock of ATV, channel 15, for his many contributions to sports and the news coverage of sports events on the island.

The final glass sculpture of black was given to a pillar of the community, Audrey Croes-Lacle, the owner of the Maggy’s chain of stores and the Chairman of MAMBO, the Association of Merchants for a Better Mainstreet. Ms. Croes-Lacle has long contributed to the economic growth of Aruba and set an example of fine business practice and social involvement for the community of merchants on the island. Looking elegant and regal as she accepted her award, she exemplified why she was chosen for this honor.

Aruba is the home of many outstanding personalities that devote a great deal of their time to contributing to the present and future welfare of the island, and too often are not given recognition for what they do, so events like the Xclusivo awards are enjoyed by many. This year’s winners were particularly deserving, and THE NEWS offers their congratulations to the Xclusivo Outstanding Personalities of 2006!